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6th November, 2020

Autumn Term

Last day of the Autumn term will be 18th December, 2020

Half term Monday 26th October, 2020 – Friday 30th October, 2020 inclusive

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

A message from Mrs. Denham

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. We hope you had a lovely half term break. What an unusual term we find ourselves in again as we move into lockdown 2.0.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these difficult times. The wonderful thing is that the children seem to be coping with all the changes and unusual situations so very well. We are very proud of them.

Obviously with moving into a second lockdown, we are continuing to follow all our risk assessments and guidance.

- 1) Staff are constantly cleaning, reducing movement around the school and some are now wearing masks or visors.
- 2) We are doing everything we can to ensure health and safety guidance is being followed. Your children are hand washing and sanitising continually throughout the day and we are encouraging them to socially distance as much as possible.
- 3) Throughout the day we are opening the doors and windows to ensure good ventilation throughout the school. Please can you ensure your child is warmly dressed for school!
- 4) Gary Chown, the CEO of Ventrus has written an important letter concerning lockdown which is attached to this newsletter.
- 5) Further to this letter, can we please remind parents to socially distance at all times during drop-off and pick up and ensure that younger children remain close to parents at all times.
- 6) Please do not let them play around with other children, climb and move away from you.
- 7) If possible, it would be beneficial to reduce the numbers of people at the gates too - so could only one parent/carer drop off and pick up please.
- 8) Please could parents only arrive at the allocated times for drop off and pick up and then leave the school area as soon as you have collected your child.
- 9) Please **do not** congregate around the gate so children have to walk through adults to get home.

10) If you need to speak to an adult for any length, please phone the school office rather than speak on the playground.

11) If any parent has to come into the school office entrance for any reason, we please request that they wear a face mask.

All teachers are looking forward to virtually meeting you next week on Teams for your **child's parent conference**. Thank you to those parents who have got on and booked via Arbor.

Thank you for bearing with us and supporting us whilst we **transition to these different IT platforms**. Staff are having to work so hard to implement these changes. This is new territory for us all and I am very proud of all the staff for so willingly learning about Microsoft Teams and working out ways to make this blended learning successful for your children. Every pupil from Y1 to Y6 has been set up on Microsoft Teams. We have written about this in previous newsletters. We **URGE** you to get onto Teams. The children are really enjoying getting to use aspects of it in school.

We know several parents have encountered problems with Teams and we thank you for coming to us about them. We have managed to sort most issues out with our families.

We thank our wonderful PTA for putting so much energy and effort into various fundraising ideas for the school. Please take a look at their ideas further in this newsletter. We are so grateful to them all.

Admissions Policy consultation 2022 -2023

The consultation period for the 2022 – 2022 – Holywell C of E Primary School admissions policy began on the 1st November, 2020 The consultation period ends on 8th January, 2021.

Below you will see a link to our proposed admissions policy for 2022-23

<http://www.primaryschoolsbarntable.co.uk/website> and found on the Homepage under 'Links and Downloads' We are consulting on this between 1st November 2020 and 8th January 2021 and invite any parent or other person with an interest in our admission arrangements to read the policy and make any comments you wish. You will see where there are changes, the text is in red – either something we propose to add or, if it has a line through it, something we propose to remove.

One of the proposals is to add children who have been adopted from state care outside of England to our oversubscription criterion 1. This is in anticipation that the Department for Education will require this change for all schools as it has just consulted on changes to the School Admissions Code. It is possible that the Department's timescales may mean that the Code is not amended before the end of February, when we have to formally set our policy. If that is the case, we may have to determine our policy without that change and then alter it later in spring or summer. We are bringing it to your attention though as a change in policy that we expect to have to introduce.

Other than changes in red and dates moving forward a year, the way our policy will work is the same as in the previous year, 2021-22.

Any response you may have to this consultation should be sent to Mrs. Denham.(susan.denham@ventrus.org.uk)

Further information is at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements. You will be able to view the proposed policies for all state-funded schools in Devon and the Local Authorities policies there too.

School News

Food and Financial Support for Families in Need

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic is continuing to put a huge financial strain on some people. Employment situations are changing rapidly and for some their income now no longer covers what they need or they have lost their jobs completely.

Help is available. If you know someone who is worrying about money and how to pay for basic household essentials, please encourage them to apply for extra assistance through funding made available by Devon County Council via your District Council's hardship fund.

To find out more about what support is available in Devon, including how to access local financial support, healthy start vouchers and free school meals, where to find foodbanks and community larders, free meals during the school holidays and what to do if you're on a low income and need to self-isolate, [please visit Devon County Council's website](http://www.devon.gov.uk).

IMPORTANT - After School Club – Wrap around Care.

We are extremely sorry but after next week we will no longer be able to run these sessions. We require 8 children to attend per session to break even and we have only achieved this on a couple of evenings.

Walking or cycling home from school

If you wish you child to wither cycle or walk home from school alone, without another adult present can you please notify the school in writing. Thank you.

Transport Require – Are you able to help?

We have a parent who requires a lift home for their child 2 or 3 times a fortnight to the Whiddon Valley area of town. If you are able to help could you, please contact the school by email or phone. Thank you.

Flu Immunisation

Your child is eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu vaccination. If you have not already booked your child's vaccination, please do so using this link. <https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

COVID 19 - Useful links and phone numbers:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

Phone NHS on 111, or the Covid kit delivery helpdesk on 119

Dates for your diary

27 th November 2020	1 st Christmas Jumper day. Also, 4 th , 11 th & 18 th December.
30 th November 2020	Flu Immunisation
18 th December 2020	Last day of Term
5 th January 2021	Spring Term begins
15 th February to 19 th February 2021	Half Term
1 st April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 th April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 rd May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday
28 th May 2021	Non Pupil Day
31 st May to 4 th June 2021	Half Term
23 rd July 2021	Last Day of Term

News from the PTA



We hope you had a lovely half term break and enjoyed time together as a family. Thank you to all who took part in the scavenger hunt photo challenge. If you have not yet submitted your entry, make sure you do it asap! Thank you for bringing in bags of clothes.

Your School Lottery

We have now launched a fundraising lottery through Your School Lottery and hope you will want to support the school in this way while getting the chance to win up to £25,000 jackpot. The first draw will take place on 21st November so you have just 2 weeks to sign up! Please see flyer attached for further details.

Easy fundraising

Black Friday is fast approaching and as we're now in the second national lockdown we anticipate lots of online spending in the run up to Christmas! There has never been a better time to sign up to easyfundraising and help us to collect free funds for the school. Share the link with your friends and families – every penny counts and signing up only takes 2 minutes – plus if you're quick you can enter their competition to win £500 for the school by simply clicking one of these shops – go on, there's nothing to lose! Enter before 8th November <http://efraising.org/meQVnucGoQ>

Next Meeting

We are busy planning for Christmas and as always, new ideas and offers of help are welcome, as are donations for the raffle.

Please join us on Tuesday's online meeting!

10 Nov 2020 07:30 PM

Link to Zoom meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71155451126?pwd=MjNzRHZMUllzZnNyNmwwRWp0S1R0dz09>

Meeting ID: 711 5545 1126

Access code: J3i3L3

Dates for your diary:

10th November 7.30 pm - PTA meeting online, everyone is invited!